

526

*Re-Mrs Hall*

Louise Geist

She said she was in the kitchen between nine-thirty and ten o'clock on September 14th, 1922 and saw Mrs. Hall at the library table playing solitaire. She, Louise, closed the shutters, but did not talk with Mrs. Hall, then went up-stairs, put a thermos bottle on the table and went to bed. Earlier in the evening she was in Mr. and Mrs. Hall's bed-room when the telephone rang. She answered the telephone and a voice which she recognized as Mrs. Mills' asked for Mr. Hall. Louise looked over the landing and saw Mrs. Hall, then about picking up the telephone receiver, having it about half way to her ear. She, Louise, said, "It is for Mr. Hall", whereupon Mrs. Hall hung up the receiver before she had placed it to her ear. Mr. Hall was in the bathroom and then came out and took the receiver. His conversation was something like this, "Yes - yes - yes - that's too bad, I'll be right over". Louise had worked at the Hall house since the previous October on that occasion. She had also worked there at a former time, about a year and a half or so before that. During the summer of 1922, while Mr. and Mrs. Hall were away, Mills was at the Hall house as its caretaker. On the morning of September 14th about seven o'clock, Louise heard the shutters down-stairs being opened. That was always a signal to her that early breakfast was wanted, so she went down-stairs to prepare the breakfast, thinking that Mr. Hall had opened the shutters. When she got down-stairs Willie Stevens was there and she asked him what he was doing down so early. He said, "Something terrible has happened. Mr. Hall has not been home all night. Don't tell Frances I told you". Mrs. Hall came down for breakfast, but seemed nervous. Her eyes were red and she was playing with some keys. Louise had set the table for four people as was the custom and when Mr. Hall did not appear she, out of curiosity, said, "Shall I fix a tray for Mr. Hall or will he be down for breakfast?". She was told by Mrs. Hall that Mr. Hall had not been home during the night. When Mr. Hall had left the night before Louise heard Mrs. Hall say to Mr. Hall, "Are you going out?", to which he replied by saying, "Yes, I am going out to find out about the Mills' bills".

She also said that at the hearing in Somerville before Cleary, she saw Trooper McManus point out Willie Stevens and Henry Carpenter to Jane Gibson.

She also said, at some time around September 14th, a tramp came to the Hall house and asked for Mr. Hall, saying that he had been sent there by Mr. Parrish, that he was an Episcopalian, that he had a criminal record and that he understood Episcopalians would take care of him. He was annoyed because Mr. Hall was not there, saying that Mr. Parrish had sent him to the Hall house just to get rid of him.

13